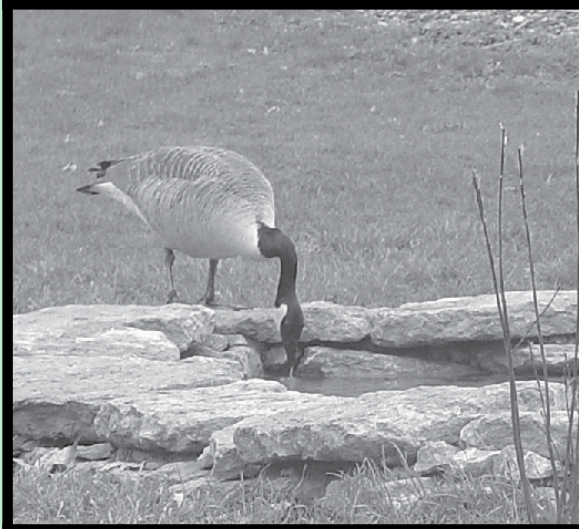
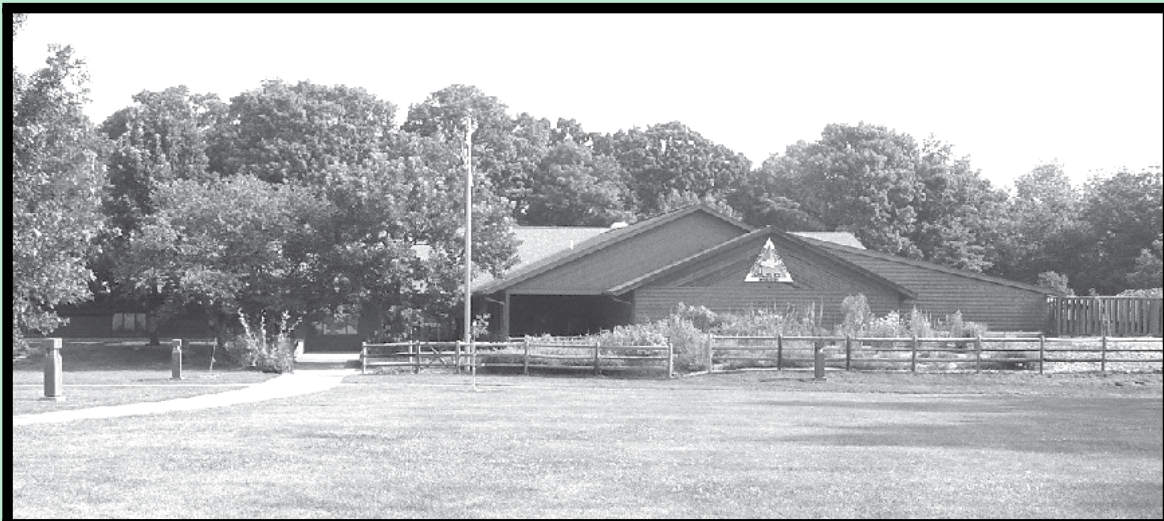


Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center



MDC
DISCOVER
nature
SCHOOLS

**Interpretive
Program Guide**
for Teachers and
Group Leaders
2009–2010

Our mission is to bring people and nature together, and conserve it too!

General Information

AT BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER, YOU WILL FIND A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN FROM PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, ALL INCORPORATING HANDS-ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE OUTDOORS.

WE HAVE DESIGNED PROGRAMS THAT WILL ENHANCE SCIENCE-BASED SUBJECTS TAUGHT AT THE VARIOUS GRADE LEVELS AND ARE ALIGNED TO MISSOURI GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL CHOOSE BURR OAK WOODS FOR YOUR FIELD TRIP THIS YEAR. WE GUARANTEE THAT YOUR STUDENTS WILL BE ENGAGED, LEARN, AND HAVE FUN AT THE SAME TIME.

Scheduling Guidelines

Registration begins August 1 for the fall/winter semester and January 2 for the spring semester. Call 816-228-3766 or email lauren.mccarthy@mdc.mo.gov

Arriving on time is very important. Plan to arrive 10 minutes prior to your program start time. If late, we cannot extend the program time due to the program schedule.

Chaperone/child Ratios
one adult per ten children.

Maximum Program group size is 60 students for grades K-5, 30 for pre-K. We realize that you may need to bring more students, which is fine. However, to insure program quality, it may be necessary for you to schedule back-to-back programs. Thus while half your students are in the program, the others may walk a trail or explore the exhibits with teachers and chaperones.

Discipline of students is the responsibility of teachers and chaperones. We reserve the right to ask students to leave if they are disruptive or disrespectful to staff and volunteers.

**Burr Oak Woods
Conservation Nature Center
1401 NW Park Road
Blue Springs MO 64015
Phone: 816-228-3766
Fax: 816-655-6267
www.burroakwoods.org**

When You Arrive

The Nature Center

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center is owned by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Nestled in the heart of this 1,071-acre conservation area are five hiking trails, including two paved trails, which provide easy access to most parts of the area. The 15,000 square-foot interpretive center has educational and informative exhibits, including a 3,000-gallon freshwater aquarium, a wildlife viewing room and a variety of live amphibians and reptiles.

Lunch Facilities

Burr Oak Woods has two picnic areas to use for lunch. These are available on a first-come/first-serve basis. Please keep in mind that the two areas do require a drive from the interpretive center. **Burr Oak Woods has a TRASH IN/TRASH OUT POLICY.**

Self-guided Visits

Self-guided groups are always welcome at the nature center. We do ask that you schedule your visit as you would any program within this brochure. Upon arrival, please check in at the front desk to verify your arrival along with the number of students and chaperones. When you check in, you will be given a trail map. As with any of our naturalist-led programs, we ask that you also bring at least one chaperone per ten students.

Rain or Shine

IF THE WEATHER TURNS UNFAVORABLE OUTSIDE ON YOUR FIELD TRIP DAY, WE WILL STILL PROVIDE A QUALITY PROGRAM!

Critters Close-up!

Time of Year: Year-round

Your students can meet several of our captive live reptiles and amphibians in this fun, eyeball-to-eyeball program. We'll include snakes, turtles, frogs and perhaps even a salamander!

Discover Nature Schools

3-4 hours

THE DISCOVER NATURE SCHOOLS PROGRAM PROMOTES CONSERVATION EDUCATION THROUGH INSTRUCTIONAL UNITS THAT MEET GRADE-LEVEL EXPECTATIONS AND ENCOURAGE HANDS-ON OUTDOOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES. EACH UNIT IS DESIGNED TO INCREASE STUDENT UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND OUR ROLE IN CONSERVING THEM. GRANTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROGRAM PROVIDE MONEY FOR MATERIALS AND FIELD TRIP TRANSPORTATION. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PARTICIPATING IN THE DISCOVER NATURE SCHOOLS PROGRAM, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATION EDUCATION CONSULTANT.



IN THE KANSAS CITY METRO AREA CALL 816-759-7300

TO FIND AN EDUCATION CONSULTANT IN OTHER AREAS VISIT THE MDC TEACHER WEBPAGE AT
WWW.MDC.MO.GOV/TEACHER/CONTACTS.

THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE DISCOVER NATURE SCHOOLS PROGRAM. PARTICIPATION WILL BE CONFIRMED WITH YOUR EDUCATION CONSULTANT BEFORE WE CONFIRM ONE OF THESE SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR YOU.

Upper Elementary **Nature Unleashed**

Time of Year: Fall, Spring

Your Nature Unleashed field trip is designed to be a hands-on natural ecosystem analysis. Your students will be completely immersed into the role of scientific investigation by exploring pond, forest, and prairie ecosystems. Students will be asked to keep a scientific journal to record their findings as they examine both the biotic and abiotic (or living and non-living) components of each ecosystem.

Missouri GLEs Strand EC.1.A., EC.1.D., EC.2.A., LO.1.A., LO.1.D., ME.2.C.



Middle School

Conserving Missouri's Aquatic Ecosystems

Time of Year: Fall, Spring

The class will explore intriguing mysteries just beneath the surface of the water. Wetlands provide habitat for fish, wildlife, and for you and me! Come discover who lives here, who eats who, how we fit in, and how the water puzzle fits together through hands on activities. Also included in this program is the opportunity to use our educational pond for fishing.

Missouri GLEs Strand EC.1.A., EC.1.B., EC.1.D., EC.2.A., IN.1.A., IN.1.B., IN. 1.C.

You Be the Judge

Time of Year: Year-round

Conservation and natural resource issues often do not have easy solutions. During this highly interactive program, your students will have the opportunity to examine a controversial issue as they play a role in a town council meeting. They must come to a consensus of a course of action. They must consider competition of resources, as well as examine beneficial and harmful human activities and how they impact organisms within an ecosystem. Can they balance human want and need with conservation of our natural resources?

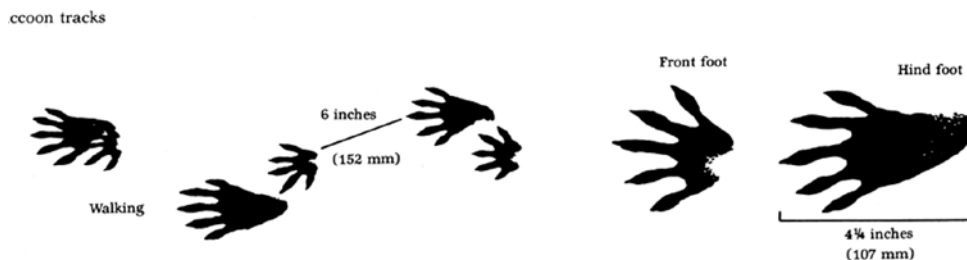
Missouri GLEs Strand EC.1.B.6.a-c, EC.1.D.6.a-c

Ecosystem Detectives

Time of Year: Fall, Spring

With thrilling surprises around every corner in this orienteering course, your students will be challenged to answer questions about food webs, ecosystems, and how certain adaptations give some animals a survival advantage. Students will learn a few map and compass skills and apply them, while working together as a group, to determine the correct course to take by answering questions, using topographical maps, compasses, and relative location descriptions.

Missouri GLEs Strand EC.1.A.9-11.a-b, EC.1.B.9-11.a-b, EC.1.C.9-11.a-b, EC.1.D.9-11.a-b



Program at Your School

DURING THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER THROUGH MARCH WE WILL DO THE TRAVELING AS WE TAKE OUR SHOW ON THE ROAD! BELOW IS THE PROGRAM THAT WE CAN TEACH IN YOUR CLASSROOM. THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED FOR AN ENTIRE GRADE LEVEL AT YOUR SCHOOL WITH THE TOTAL VISIT LASTING NO MORE THAN TWO HOURS (INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM TIMES VARY WITH AGE OF THE CHILDREN). TO MAKE A RESERVATION, PLEASE CALL 816-228-3766. TO PARTICIPATE YOUR SCHOOL MUST BE IN MISSOURI AND WITHIN 45 MINUTES OF BURR OAK WOODS.

Extinct ~ Endangered ~ Recovered

You know the story of how bald eagles have been recovered as a species, but most people have not heard the gripping tale of how white-tail deer almost disappeared from Missouri. Learning the connections between human needs and our natural resources paves the way to a greater understanding of harmful environmental impacts and possible solutions. In this interactive program, students will assess an animal population and learn to identify the factors that affect the number and types of organisms an ecosystem can support.

Missouri GLEs Strand EC.1.B.6.a and c, EC.1.D.6.a and c

Amazing Adaptations

Time of Year: Year-round

That's AMAZING! From webbed toes to gnawing teeth, animals have some amazing adaptations... and so do we! During this program, students will learn how adaptations help animals and plants survive in this world.

Missouri GLEs Strand EC.2.A.3.b-d, EC.1.A.4.a-b, EC.2.A.4.a-c, EC.3.C.4.a and d

Riddle of the Woods

Time of Year: Fall, Spring

Wild animals leave clues everywhere they go. Simply by studying the animal's scat, we can categorize them as one of the three types of consumers: herbivore, omnivore, or carnivore. Learning to "read" the animal signs can help us understand predator/prey relationships and the flow of energy through food chains in the ecosystem. Solve some real wild riddles on a hike of nature discovery.

Missouri GLEs Strand EC.2.A.3.b-d, EC.1.A.4.a, EC.2.A.4.a-c



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The Cycle Of Life

Students will learn about the transfer of energy and the relationships between the organisms that make up the natural world. We will check out producer, consumer, and decomposer interactions, and examine predator/prey relationships. We will predict the possible effects of removing an organism from the food web. We will even determine just how we fit into the picture in this dynamic program.

Missouri GLEs Strand EC.2.A.3.b-d, EC.1.D.4.a, EC.2.A.4.a-c

1st-2nd graders

90 minutes

“M” Files

Time of Year: Year-round

We have called the Naturalist in Black to help your class unlock the clues to a special mystery. Students will go outside to look for clues to solve the case. We will work together to uncover clues involving the basic needs (food, water, shelter, and space) of the resident mammals at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area using rap sheets and eyewitness accounts. Who is the mystery mammal?

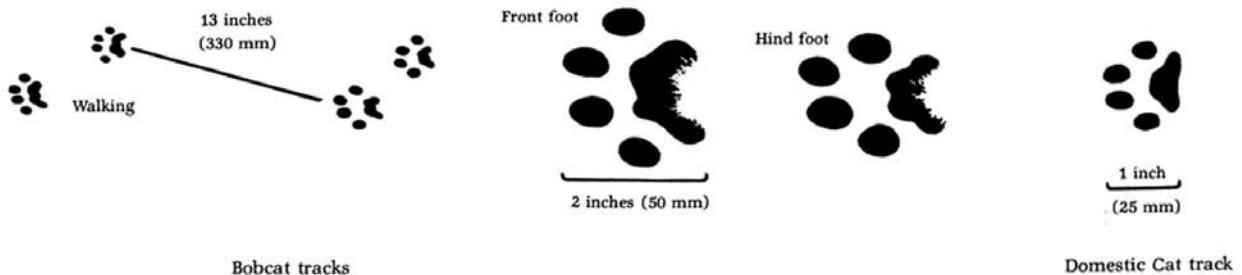
Missouri GLEs Strand: LO.1.D.1.d, SI.1.K-2.a-b, SI.1.C.K-3.a and b

Missouri’s Creepiest Residents

Time of Year: Year-round

Missouri is home to various extraordinary wild animals, many of which people may find creepy. During this interactive game show program students will work as a group to identify physical structures of these organisms, determine their function, and discover ways in which people depend on wild plants and animals. Then, we will head outside in search of “creepy” animals and maybe even a strange plant or two.

Missouri GLEs Strand: LO.1.A.1.a, LO.1.D.1.b



Program at Your School

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Going Batty!

If it flies then it’s a bird, right? Bats have been misunderstood, mistreated and shrouded in mystery for years. Allow us to bring some bat natural history into your classroom. We will identify the physical structures and behavioral adaptations that make bats such unique creatures. This interactive program will leave students and teachers with a ‘batter’ attitude.

Missouri GLEs Science Strand LO.1.A.1.a, LO.1.B.2.a, LO.1.D.1.b and d

Micro-Hike

Time of Year: Year-round

Just as Horton discovers Whoville, sometimes the most interesting things in nature are found right beneath our feet. Join us as we take a journey of exploration in the space of a few feet. We will use simple equipment such as hand lenses to observe and compare the structures and behaviors of different kinds of plants and animals out in the field.

Missouri GLEs Strand LO.1.D.a., SI.1.B.K-2.b



That Makes Perfect Sense

Time of Year: Year-round

Wildlife use their five senses to survive just like we do! Join us for a program of zany fun as your students make qualitative observations using their five senses and discover some magnificent sensory adaptations that animals use to negotiate their world.

Missouri GLEs Strand SI.1.B.K-2.a and b

Program at Your School

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Nature's Naming Game

We use classification in our everyday life to group objects together based on common characteristics. We classify clothing, books, and even food! Classification is also an important tool scientists use to examine the natural world. For example: long tail vs. short tail or smooth bark vs. rough bark. We will use interactive activities to demonstrate exactly what classification is.

Missouri GLEs Strand LO.1.D.a

Preschool

60 minutes

Seasons of Change

Time of year: Year round

The natural world changes as it cycles through the seasons. Students will discover the wonders of the present season through hands-on activities and outdoor exploration.

Autumn: Amazing Autumn Animals
Winter: Winter Friends
Spring: Adaptable Amphibians
Summer: The Ants Go Marching...

Naturally Sense-sational!

Time of Year: Year-round

Pack your sensing toolkit and head to Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center as we discover how to see, smell, touch, taste, and feel like our animal friends.

Nature's Hide and Seek

Time of Year: Fall, Spring:

“Now you see me, now you don’t!” Discover the strategies animals use to avoid predators or seek out prey. Your observation skills will be tested as we play interactive games and hike down the secret trail.

Summer Interpretive Programs

PROGRAMS ARE SCHEDULED FOR GROUPS OF 10+ PEOPLE, AND SCHEDULED ON THE HOUR BETWEEN 9:00 A.M. AND 3:00 P.M. ALL THE PROGRAMS ARE 60 MINUTES IN LENGTH. CALL THE NATURE CENTER TO SCHEDULE YOUR PROGRAM BEGINNING MAY 1ST.

Insect-a-mania

Enter a fantastic new world! Students will marvel at the incredible adaptations of insects and become entomologists as they venture into a prairie to closely examine these strange and wonderful creatures. Maximum 50 attending.

Amazing Adaptations

From webbed toes to gnawing teeth, animals have an amazing assortment of adaptations. Students will discover how they can help both plants and animals survive through hands-on activities and an outdoor walk. Maximum 60 attending.

Critters Close-Up

Students can meet several captive live reptiles and amphibians in this fun, eyeball-to-eyeball program. We will include snakes, turtles, frogs and perhaps even a salamander! Maximum 50 attending with a hike, maximum 100 with out a hike.